

Enjoy this issue as you explore principles and practices that support the living landscape.

August 2020



Advocating for ecological landscape practices  
through education, collaboration, and outreach.

## From the Editor

As the incoming newsletter editor, I joined the ELA family just as we were all trying to figure out how to live our lives socially distanced. Shadowing Maureen, virtually, for these past few months has been a learning experience and a joy. I am continually impressed by the quality and range of the articles submitted by our community, and deeply grateful for the opportunity to work with so many dedicated and engaged ELA members. I welcome input from the community, from story ideas to constructive feedback.

Now more than ever, people are connecting with nature and looking for landscape and gardening guidance. In response, ELA has quickly adapted to remote education and information exchange. As we confronted limited access to many favorite landscapes, the [Walk in the Garden](#) series presented this spring and early summer proved to be a wonderful way to bring both members and nonmembers to gardens all over the world. If you have not had a chance to enjoy these presentations on a wide array of topics, the webinars will be free for your enjoyment through the end of August. After you have caught up on our summer webinars, you can tune in to the 8th season of [A Focus on Sustainability](#) webinar series, restarting in September with more engaging topics from our panel of expert speakers. Travel to gardens in New York's Catskill Mountains, rural Pennsylvania, and Cape Cod, Massachusetts as an armchair tourist in this issue of the newsletter. Each garden faced special challenges and obstacles that were overcome by great garden design that harmonized with the unique ecology of the local ecosystem. After visiting these gardens, take a moment to explore one designer's process and then join in the Asian tiger mosquito project and help scientists track this invasive pest. Enjoy these last days of summer. *GRH*



## Revitalizing a Tired Palette by Don Pell

Four years ago, a project inquiry brought me to a site that dreams are made of - an 18th-century colonial farmhouse beautifully restored over the past 30 years by its owners. The details of the home were meticulously curated; however, the gardens were entirely unconsidered. The home's surroundings looked degraded and sadly suburban join me as I transform this landscape into an ecological oasis for the homeowners to enjoy for years to come. [Read the article.](#)



## Let It Rain

by Jamie Purinton and Marc Wolf

Mountain Top Arboretum was designed to mimic and compliment the wondrous native plant communities of New York's Catskill Mountains. Habitats such as wet meadows and seeps, woodland edges, and bedrock alpine communities completely guided the style and content of the plantings and the stonework. Teamwork combining design, planting, stormwater management, and a focus on educating the public culminated in a landscape that can be resilient through all types of weather. [Read the article.](#)



## Lessons Learned from a Native Plant Journey

by Cathy Weston

A visit to Cape Cod brings us to a two-acre fallow farmland property where the homeowner/gardener has spent years cutting back invasive plants to return the land from an Old Field habitat to a Coastal Woodland. The amount of effort to remove and keep invasives at bay could seem a daunting task, but this homeowner persevered and with trial and error created a beautiful, ecological habit for both herself and the wildlife her property now calls home. [Read the article.](#)



## Design Communications: Engaging the Clients

by Toby Wolf

Ecologically designed landscapes come into the world small and vulnerable. Until they are established, they rely completely on their owners' patience and care. And their owners rely on us, as designers, to tell them what to expect from their new landscapes and -- even more importantly -- to make sure that the landscapes fit the owners' needs, values, and capabilities. [Read the article.](#)



## Tracking the Asian Tiger Mosquito in the Northeastern US: An Opportunity for Citizen Scientists!

by Kellyann Baxendell and Laura C. Harrington

The Asian Tiger Mosquito (ATM) was first introduced to this country in the mid-1980s and has become invasive across a wide swath of the eastern US, with a continually expanding range. ATMs are particularly aggressive mosquitoes that feed during the day, which makes them a danger to gardeners and landscapers. Learn about ATM and how citizen scientists can help stop disease-spreading mosquitoes. [Read the article.](#)

## Our Advertisers



An advertisement for Ernst Seeds. The top half shows a close-up of purple daisy-like flowers with a bee on one. The bottom half is a white banner with the Ernst Seeds logo on the right, which features a stylized green plant and the text "ERNST SEEDS". To the left of the logo, the website "ernstseed.com", email "sales@ernstseed.com", and phone number "800-873-3321" are listed. On the far left of the banner, there is a circular logo for "BUTTERFLY APPRECIATION SOCIETY" and social media icons for Facebook, LinkedIn, Twitter, Instagram, and YouTube.

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### ELA News Feature Events

#### Virtual Tour at Coastal Maine Botanical Gardens - August 20

Enjoy a virtual tour of the Butterfly House at Coastal Maine Botanical Gardens on August 20 at noon. [Beauty in Flight](#) presented in collaboration with CMBG lets us visit this beautiful property in Boothbay, Maine and learn more about the interplay of native plant cultivars and native species.

### Season's End Summit - October 28

We look back at a season that has truly been like no other. Join us at this year's [Season's End Summit](#) for refreshing perspectives and inspiring discussions of tools and techniques that help us build healthy and healing landscapes.



### ELA Webinars in Two Series Remain Free Through August

If you missed A Walk in the Garden, the webinars will be available for viewing by non-members through the end of August. Members will continue to have access after August. [Find the webinar list here.](#)

Also through August, ELA is opening up seven seasons of the [Focus on Sustainability](#) webinar series for viewing by non-members. Over 80 webinars explore topics on a wide range of ecological principles and practices. To access the webinars, viewers simply complete a [quest registration](#).

ELA members enjoy year-round member discounts on the many [talks, tours, and webinars](#) that ELA offers each year on a wide range of topics. Check the ELA website for the list of [Upcoming Events](#) and to [join ELA](#).



### Volunteer Coffee Is Back - August 19

We're anxious to hear from you. Volunteer for a few minutes this month, or any month, by calling in for virtual coffee with ELA. If you have an idea for a program, heard a terrific speaker, or learned about a great resource call in to share any time between 12:30 and 1:00 on August 19. Email [Maureen@ecolandscaping.org](mailto:Maureen@ecolandscaping.org) for the call-in number. Hope to talk to you then.



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## Gleanings

### **Infighting Over American Chestnut**

The passion that pushes the legions of volunteers in their mission to save the American chestnut borders on fanatical obsession. As a quest for a genetically modified chestnut species heats up, the movement is at a crossroads. Can the two sides come to a consensus? Read more at [EcoRI News](#).



### **U.S. Identifies some Mystery Seeds from China**

Mysterious seeds arriving from China have been identified as common seeds including lavender, rosemary, and morning glory. At press time there were no invasive species found in these packets, but recipients should refrain from planting them. Read more at [boston.com](#).



### **The Ugly Truth about Plastic Pots**

The use of plastic pots advanced the green industry into a thriving business, yet the use of single-stream plastic pots that are difficult to recycle brings a huge ecological impact. Find a comprehensive look at what consumers want and how the green industry is looking for alternatives to single-use durable plastic pots in [Pots and the Green Industry](#) from the Association of Professional Landscape Designers.



### **Buzz Kill**

*Buzz Kill* – winner of the 2020 Yale Environment 360 Video Contest – depicts the beauty and key ecological role played by native bees and shows how industrialized agriculture and its use of honeybee colonies threatens endemic bee species. Watch this amazing video at [Yale Environment360](#).



### **Fight for Clean Water in California**

More than a million California residents do not have access to safe drinking water. Filmmaker Casey Beck looks at the small Latino community of Tooleville where town leaders fight for their right to clean water. His film *The Great Divide* is the third-place winner of the 2020 Yale Environment 360 Video Contest. Watch the video at [Yale Environment360](#).



### **Ecologically Controlling Mosquitoes**

Backyard BBQs, fireworks, and mosquitoes all declare it is summertime. Learn to ecologically manage mosquitoes in your own garden and work with your town officials to promote better pest management. Read more in the Xerces Society publication [Supporting Ecologically Sound Mosquito Management](#).



### **Honeybees: Artist and Engineers**

A newly published book, *The Art of the Bee: Shaping the Environment from Landscapes to Societies*, by author Robert E. Page, Jr. is a collection of essays that brings us on a journey of the biological traits that constitute a bee's social contract. Learn more at [UC News](#).



### **Green School Goes VIRTUAL!**

UMass Extension's Green School is a comprehensive 12-day certificate short course for horticultural professionals who wish to gain an understanding of economically feasible and environmentally responsible plant and land care practices. Classes begin October 26, 2020, and runs through December 10, 2020. Learn more at [UMass Extension](#).



### **Tinted Solar Panels Produce Leafier Greens**

A new study finds, growing crops under transparent, tinted solar panels may result in leafier, more nutritious plants, while also increasing farmers' incomes by up to a third through electricity generation. Read more at [Anthropocene](#).



### **From Prisons to Farms**

Roots 2Empower is the brainchild of Tarshire Battle, a mental health discharge planner for the Rhode Island Department of Corrections. She had the brilliant idea to employ former inmates using a co-op/nonprofit hybrid that pairs formerly incarcerated people with farming and entrepreneurship. The endeavor will also bring fresh produce to Pawtucket, R.I. Read more at [EcoRI News](#).

### **Interactive Map of Gardens Near You!**

Time to get outside and get some fresh air. While travel via planes is still difficult, you can find beautiful lush gardens within driving distance of your home. Find a public garden near you with this helpful interactive map. Be sure to check new garden hours and COVID 19 guidelines before you go or check out their virtual garden resources. Learn more at [Garden Virtual Resources](#).



### **Protecting California's Watersheds**

ReScape California is a non-profit whose goals are to educate and advocate a whole-system approach to landscaping in the Sacramento River Watershed and the San Francisco Bay-Delta Watershed. Learn about their eight core principles at [Our Principles](#).



**Enjoy all the ELA Membership Benefits - including free and discounted events.**  
[Become a Member!](#)

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### **Events to Note (listings indicate local time unless otherwise noted)**

#### **August**

August 19 - [Developing an Invasive Plant Management Plan](#) (online class); 9:00am-2:30pm ET.

August 19 - [Great Garden Tours: Showstopper Perennials Across the US](#) (webinar); 3:00-4:30pm ET.

August 19 - [From Rustic to Grand: Virtual Tour of Lower Hudson Valley Public Gardens](#) 6:30 pm.

August 20 **ELA Eco-Tour**→[Beauty in Flight: A Virtual Tour of the Coastal Maine Botanical Gardens Butterfly House](#); 12:00 noon ET.

August 20 - [Your Insect Allies: Meet the Beneficial Insects Controlling Pests in Your Garden](#) (webinar); 1:00pm ET.

August 22 **ELA Class**→[Class: Shade Gardens: Embracing the Dark Side](#) (conducted online); 1:00-4:00pm ET.

August 25- [Land Protection Tools and Techniques Class](#); Tuesdays & Thursdays, 10:00-11:45am ET.

### September

September 3 [Beyond Plants: What Else Do Insects Need to Thrive?](#) (webinar); 1:00pm ET.

September 9 - [Biology of Ticks and Other Tick-Borne Disease](#); 12:00-1:00pm ET.

September 10 - [Insect Pests in the Landscape](#) (webinar); 12:00pm ET.

September 14 **ELA Webinar**→[Deer-Resistant Native Groundcovers](#); 12:00-1:00pm ET.

September 16-18 [Plan It Native](#) (online conference); 1:00-5:00 pm CDT.

September 23 **ELA Webinar**→[Why Rain Gardens Fail and Tools for Success](#); 12:00-1:00pm ET.

September 23-26 - [APLD International Landscape Design Conference](#) (online); times Vary

September 28 **ELA Webinar**→[Field Notes - A Holistic Guide for the Modern Land Steward](#); 12:00-1:00pm ET.

### October

October 28 **ELA Virtual Conference**→[Season's End Summit](#); 9:30am-4:30pm ET.

Submit events by the 10th of the month for inclusion in the upcoming newsletter.



**Offshoots Productive Landscapes - Boston, MA  
FALL 2020 OR SPRING 2021 START DATES  
Send resume and work references to: [Joe Shafner](#)**

#### Landscape Laborer

We are seeking a seasonal landscape laborer to work on residential and commercial landscape and garden installations with our horticulture team. We focus on creating sustainable, ecologically sound landscapes and are looking for hard working individuals to join our team in Boston. Qualified

candidates will have experience in the landscaping industry and the ability to work in a variety of weather conditions. Jobs will include planting and soils installation and maintenance.

#### Landscape Foreman

We are seeking a highly motivated and experienced Landscape Foreman/ Field Supervisor to oversee installations and run a small crew on residential and commercial landscape and garden installations. Candidates must have previous field experience working on landscape installation teams. A degree in Landscape Contracting, Horticulture, or similar experience is preferred. Offshoots, Inc. is a landscape architecture and horticultural installation practice focusing on ecological and productive landscape strategies. Offshoots is a growing company, and there is significant room for advancement.

#### Two Gardener Positions

Offshoots Inc. is looking for 2 candidates to join our garden maintenance team: 1) an Experienced Gardener and 2) an Entry-Level Gardener (with no previous required work experience required.) Both positions require individuals eager to work with and learn about plants with a strong interest in gardening; can be either part-time or full-time roles. Team members will be required to carry out instructions from our Lead Gardener as well as communicate priorities, plans, expectations, and issues with other staff. Candidates must be an independent self-starter able to track hours. Job involves working directly with plants, turf, mulch, and irrigation.

#### Mid-Level Landscape Architectural Designer

Offshoots, Inc. seeks a landscape designer/architect, with four to seven years of previous experience, to join our Boston office team.

We are looking for a self-starting and flexible individual to help grow our office.



Responsibilities will include:

- \* Illustrating productive landscape systems, including diagramming phytoremediation and ecological planting strategies, 2D and 3D landscape renderings
- \* Construction detailing and drafting of projects ranging from residences to multifamily housing, public parks and streetscapes
- \* Project management of residential design projects.
- \* Graphic layout of reports, proposals and image books in Adobe InDesign
- \* Opportunities for design collaboration and research

Candidates must have excellent graphic design skills, including ability to create photorealistic perspectives, 3D visualizations, diagrams and rendered plans. Familiarity with Adobe Suite and AutoCAD is essential.

### **Landscape Architectural Designer**

Offshoots, Inc. seeks a Landscape Architectural Designer to join our Boston-based team. Offshoots is a fast-paced hybrid design and horticultural installation practice. We are looking for a motivated and flexible individual with strong critical thinking and problem-solving skills. While we are a full-service landscape architecture practice, we have a strong focus on productive horticulture and green infrastructure-candidates with strong plant knowledge are preferred. The position will be diverse, equally involved in the design studio, installation team, and general office support.

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Whether you are located in the area of our upcoming events or in some distant landscape, you are invited to participate in ELA collaborations and discussions by joining the Ecological Landscape Alliance discussion group on LinkedIn. The ELA discussion group is open to both ELA members and non-members from around the world and participation is growing each week. Through these discussions you can share information, get answers to landscape problems, and learn new perspectives on challenging ecological issues. Joining LinkedIn is free and it is easy to join. [Join the ELA LinkedIn Discussion](#). We look forward to hearing from you soon!

We hope that you enjoy this edition of the ELA newsletter and welcome your comments at [ela.info@comcast.net](mailto:ela.info@comcast.net). *Georgia Harris, ELA Newsletter Editor*

[Visit Our Website](#)

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